



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

September 16, 2003

Contact: Rosa García (240) 777-7982

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Montgomery County Joins Hundreds of Local Governments Across the Country in Accepting Consular Identification Cards as Valid I.D.

The Montgomery County Council today approved legislation that allows departments and offices of County government to accept consular registration cards as personal forms of identification and proof of residence to access County programs. An accompanying resolution also urged banks in our area to accept consular registration cards to access basic banking services such as a savings account.

With this action, Montgomery County joined hundreds of local governments, over 900 police departments, and numerous financial institutions across the country in honoring consular registration cards as valid forms of identification. Council President Mike Subin applauded the Council's decision. "I thank my colleagues and the County Executive for supporting this legislation and recognizing the needs of our newest immigrants," said Subin.

Councilmember Tom Perez, the lead sponsor of the legislation, said, "This action sends a strong message to immigrants across Montgomery County. We welcome your enormous contributions to our local economy and will work hard to ensure that you and your families will achieve the quality of life that every resident of Montgomery County desires," said Perez.

Co-sponsors George Leventhal, Steve Silverman, and Mike Knapp underscored the importance of the Council's action.

"This legislation helps to ensure that all our neighbors have an opportunity to participate in the economic and cultural life of our community. By recognizing the Matrícula Consular, we are basically saying to our neighbors who already live here that they are part of our community," said Councilmember George Leventhal.

"With today's Council action, all of Montgomery County's residents can get one of the basic tools needed for everyday life—a bank account," said Council Vice President Steve Silverman.

"Our action today provides the residents of our county, no matter where they are from, with the assurance that they can more safely retain what they earn and establish a more stable economic foundation," said Mike Knapp.

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“This Council action addresses a critical public safety issue. Our newest residents should not to be victims of robberies and assaults because they do not have access to mainstream financial institutions,” said Councilmember Mike Knapp.